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Attorney Docket No: 21486-028

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Hugh S. Keeping

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/507,239

EXAMINER: J. Kerr

FILING DATE: February 18, 2000

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FOR: TREATMENT FOR BONE DISORDERS

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Boston, Massachusetts

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 50-59. Amend claim 38 and 43.

38. A method of inducing differentiation of an isolated bone marrow stromal cell, comprising contacting said cell *ex vivo* with bone morphogenic protein-6 and an extracellular matrix, wherein said cell is isolated from a bone marrow aspirate.

43. A method of inducing differentiation of an isolated bone marrow stromal cell, comprising contacting said cell *ex vivo* with an ECM and a bone morphogenic protein (BMP) selected from the group consisting of BMP-2, BMP-4, and BMP-6, wherein said cell is isolated from a bone marrow aspirate.

REMARKS

Claims 38-49 and 60 are pending, claims 50-59 having been canceled by the present amendment. Claims 38 and 43 have been amended; the amendment is supported by disclosure at page 1, lines 10-21; page 10, lines 22-31; and page 19, line 29, to page 20, line 22, of the specification; and Figs. 1, 3A, and 3B. No new matter has been added by this amendment.